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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,762	01/05/2004	Michael Kagan	3091/52	5357
44696	7590	01/23/2009	EXAMINER	
DR. MARK M. FRIEDMAN			GOODCHILD, WILLIAM J	
C/O BILL POLKINGHORN - DISCOVERY DISPATCH			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
9003 FLORIN WAY			2445	
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772				
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		01/23/2009	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/750,762	Applicant(s) KAGAN ET AL.
	Examiner WILLIAM J. GOODCHILD	Art Unit 2445

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9,15,17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 10-14,16 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 10 is dependent on claim 8, but should be dependent on independent claim 9. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. The terms "their" and "its" in claims 16 and 19 are relative terms which renders the claims indefinite. The terms "their" and "its" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is unclear what "their" and "its" is referring to within the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-8 are allowed.
5. Claims 10-14 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claim 19 is objected to as being rejected per 112 second paragraph, but would be allowable if rewritten.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 9, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shah et al., (US Patent No. 6,347,337), (hereinafter Shah).

Regarding claim 9, Shah discloses providing a single logical communication path common to doorbell writes and context read responses [column 3, lines 55-58], and facilitating unsynchronized, kernel-call-free [column 5, lines 5-13], unrestricted traffic along said single common path [column 5, lines 5-13], whereby the method enables unrestricted user-level access to a network interface adapter without having to use kernel calls [column 3, lines 30-36 and column 4, line 60 – column 5, line 16].

Regarding claim 15, Shah further discloses a NIC configured to accept doorbell rings and context read responses through a single logical path [column 3, lines 55-58],

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at least one host central processing unit (CPU) running at least one application [figure 1A], said at least one CPU connected to the NIC through an interface bus [figure 1A], said application operative to write descriptors associated with said doorbell rings and to update a doorbell record in a system memory, said single logical path passing through said interface bus [column 3, lines 55-58 and column 4, line 60 - column 5, line 16]; and a kernel call-free mechanism for facilitating free traffic along a said single logical path [column 3, lines 55-58 and column 4, line 60 - column 5, line 16], whereby said NIC configuration removes the need for a separate context storage memory attached to the NIC and whereby said kernel call-free mechanism allows a practically unlimited number of users to access the NIC simultaneously without a kernel call [column 3, lines 49-64].

Regarding claim 17, Shah further discloses wherein said buffer is a first-in first-out (FIFO) buffer [column 5, lines 8-15].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shah as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Kagan et al., (US Publication No. 2002/0165897), (hereinafter Kagan).

Regarding claim 18, Shah does not specifically disclose wherein said doorbell recovery mechanism includes a software doorbell counter and a hardware doorbell counter, and means to compare between said two counters.

However, Kagan, in the same field of endeavor discloses providing a software and hardware combination for tracking doorbells [Kagan, paragraph 58].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include using hardware and software for doorbell counters in order to provide a way to recover dropped doorbells.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9, 15 and 17-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular paragraphs / columns and line numbers in the reference(s) applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are

applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the cited passages as taught by the prior art or relied upon by the examiner.

Should applicant amend the claims of the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that applicant clearly indicate the portion(s) of applicant's specification that support the amended claim language for ascertaining the metes and bounds of applicant's claimed invention

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM J. GOODCHILD whose telephone number is (571)270-1589. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday / 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrice Winder/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2445

WJG
01/14/2009